



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

May 1, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

* Regarding your proposed draft of a column for May 16 dealing with weather modification, there is no evidence whatsoever that our seeding in any way affects the direction of a hurricane. I wish you could find a different moral dilemma than the one posed in your column, for it is precisely this question that I would not like to see raised without the comment, that while we would like to be able to steer a hurricane, at present, we haven't the foggiest idea of how to do it, and we are both pleased and dismayed to know that our seeding apparently has no affect on direction. I know this undercuts the strength of the moral dilemma posed in your column, but I am sure that you are better at thinking of new examples than I shall be in thinking of ways to rebutt the arguments that will be raised.

Your May 9 column is magnificent!

*I had to weep about
it on May 4!*

Sincerely,


Myron Tribus

* thank you so much for aborting/delimiting a disastrous misconstruction. I think a line of ms. dropped out after a "suppose". I had no intention of implying that "steering" was a present reality, as the fact here seemed to ~~imply~~ say. I will recast, and add an extra caveat.

John